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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4907
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6308
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9965
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6220
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0947
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 4669
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 3643
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1202
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2527
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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

NORTH KOREAN MISSILE THREAT

"N. Korea's Missile Launches Require a Calm Response"

Conservative Chosun Ilbo editorialized (07/06): "Through a recent series of missile launches, Pyongyang showed that it has succeeded in improving its missile technology, and if Pyongyang wants, its missiles are now accurate enough to hit major facilities in the ROK.

North Korea could aggravate the situation further by staging military provocations against the ROK or conducting a third nuclear test."

"Arms Are Not the Answer"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (07/06): "The North's recent acts of bellicosity seem to be related to its succession concerns, but the North should change its way of thinking and pay more attention to its citizens' welfare. It should turn the money it spends on missile launches into a fund to feed its people."

"North Korea Going on Its Own Road"

Moderate Hankook Ilbo editorialized (07/06): "It is noteworthy that the U.S. disregarded (North Korea's provocations) without any public comment. Some observers say that the U.S. took this attitude in order not to be embroiled in North Korea's attention-grabbing strategy, but it may be more accurate to say that Washington's ignorance is designed to keep the focus of its strategic game with North Korea on the nuclear issue by not responding to every short-range missile launch."

"N. Korea's Missile Launches Only Worsen Chances for Dialogue"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (07/06): "North Korea's scud missiles can strike all ROK regions and part of Japan and therefore are apparently aimed at the ROK and Japan, which lead the hard-line moves against North Korea. North Korea timed its missile launches to coincide with the U.S. Independence Day but did not fire long-range missiles that can provoke the U.S. in order to sound out U.S. intentions."

